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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRANT AWARD AVAILABLE THROUGH CRISIS COUNSELING REGULAR PROGRAM

Dr. Stephen W. Mayberg, Director of the Department of Mental Health, announced today the Federal Emergency Management Agency approval of California's request of \$436,604, for crisis counseling and disaster mental health services for victims of the El Nino '98 storms. These funds will allow two counties to continue through a Nine-Month Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Regular Program grant administered by the Department of Mental Health (DMH).

"California has had a reputation for providing quality mental health care in the face of natural disasters. These grants will allow Sonoma and Ventura counties to continue to deal with the emotional consequences of human and personal losses without jeopardizing ongoing community mental health services," said Dr. Mayberg.

The Department of Mental Health requested these funds through the Governor's Office of Emergency Services on behalf of mental health departments in Sonoma County Health (\$85,700) and Ventura County Mental Health (\$319,904). The Department of Mental Health will use the remaining funds to administer the program.

The program will provide crisis counseling from July 1, 1998 through March 31, 1999 to the survivors of the 1998 El Nino storm disaster as declared on February 9, 1998. At that time, a request was submitted and approved for an immediate services funding. However, the need for continued services on behalf of the two counties warranted application for the Nine-Month Regular Program funds.